Some Peculiarities of These Noble Beasts.

Julius Barras, in his recently panelened volume on "India and Tiper Henting," gives an interesting acount of the new of elephants in that ways dangerous sport. The ele-cleants used for tiger-spooting are genrally lent by the Government, an ofcial document being at the same time unded to the borrow r in which the height, name, supposed age, and prices of the animals are duty stated, tor, in the event of a casualty, the loss must be made good. More than £100 is rarely demanded for a Government lephant, nithough it is very often worth much more, the tariff being used on the expenses incurred by its

capture and training.

Of course, it is very important hefore making a selection to obtain some knowledge of the characters and antecedents of the elephants in the Commissariat Yard, and if you intend to be your own driver you must also con-trive to be on good terms with the one you choose for your personal use. Elephantine perfection is, it seems, represented by a gentle and steady female, who will stand quite still while the tiger is roaring and charging in all directions; but, as females of this species are by no means more endowed with physical courage than other personages of their sex, they generally become wild with terror after having experienced one mauling, and, far from remaining tranquil, make the best of their way from the scene of action when they find themselves in danger, so that Mr. Barras is perhaps justified in his predilection for cross old tusk-

Be this as it may, his first choice fell upon a handsome fellow nearly ten feet high, which had only killed two people during a long career, and that while incautiously approached during an attack of fever, and which bore a high character for gentleness as well as courage. Though ready to obey orders, Roghanath had a strong objection to being made to kneel, so the author, having but little time to spare for making friends, thought it well "to pass a vote of confidence at once,' and, after feeding him with bread and sugar, proceeded to mount in orthodox style, namely, by stepping on his tusks when the elephant lowered himself by advancing his front legs, and then allowed himself to be transferred by a tors of the head to his place behind the ears. This done, Mr. Barras, in als character of an enrightened European mahout, set form for his first

But we must let him describe this in his own words: "The native man, from want of thought, keeps up consant drumming on the beast's head with the good of 'ankus; I therefore noped not to use it at ail. Such an improvement all at once, however, proved more than even the elephantine mind could grasp. He began really to enjoy himself, going his own way more than mine, till at last he marched straight into an immense forest tree of the banyan species, and commenced to prowse. He seized the boughs above his head, and, tugging violently at them, brought them down on my devoted skull. This was too much. I raised the ankus and brought it down on his head with a blow that brought blood through the skin. This had the desired effect, and he at once bundled off by the road he knew I wanted him to go. He merely took with him a branch about the size of a small apple tree, to discuss as he went along. From this moment we were friends, and I do not think I ever had to use the hook again so as to bring blood; generally, it was sufficient to tap him with my fingers to get him to do what I wanted.'

If the male elephant stands one mauling he becomes fierce, and will charge into any cover where he supposed the tiger to be, displaying on some occasions a mistaken zeal which has been known to produce fatal results, for which reason tuskers are as a

rule not much appreciated. Mr. Barras, however, as before remarked, gave the preference to a good fighter, and seldom had reason to repent of his choice, though on one occasion he had a narrow escape. Having got into rather a slender tree without the elephant being aware of it, the latter probably took him for a monkey, charged furiously, and, seizing the sapling with his trunk, bent it two or three times to the ground, but fortunately without breaking the stem. Had he succeeded in doing so, he would in his blind rage have probably trampled his master to death, though when the mahout succeeded in backing him, and the author dropped to the ground and called him by name, Muarak Guj, he extended his trunk in the most friendly manner, and hoisted him on to his head.

A much more terrible danger was incurred by the writer with this same elephant when, a tigress having sprung on his head, Muarak, by a mighty shake, hurled his enemy and his rider into the air together, the latter being deposited unburt in a nest of soft grass which, happily, concealed him from the tigress, and out of which, in fear and trembling, he managed to make his way toward the approaching line of elephants, regaining his seat upon the head of "Muarak Guj." A second time the tigress made a similar spring, but this time Mr. Barras believes that "Muarak" prevented the muscles of his neck from moving, so that his rider might not be unseated when he thung from him his assailant, the already wounded tigress being finally mastered by one of the female elephants, who fairly sat down upon her and nearly

smothered her in the mud. Though the author believes that there is no limit to the sagacity and power of these creatures, which he ranks next to man in the animal kingdom, and though he deprecates the treatment they receive at the hands of the natives, he on one occasion so far orgot his principles as to tease the lephant he was riding by imitating

the roar of a tiger. He, however, very nearly mot with his death from the enraged animal, which never afterward forgot the insult. Elephants seem to be perfectly able to distinguish between those who hart them out of malice and those who do so for their good; thus even a dangerous one submitted with perfect patience to have her wounds aressed with brandy and salt, atthough the remedy is ex-cessively painful. One of the female elephants, "Manut Dar," gave a wonderful example of gentleness and intelligence when, instead of revenging herself on the mahout who had used the good with great severity when she was making her escape from a tiger, she simply took it out of his hands with her trunk at the first opportunity. and threw it over the wall of the courtvard into which she had retreated for

### Seals and Sea-Lions.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Sloss,

of the Alaska Commercial company,

we have been able to examine Prof.

Henry W. Elliott's observations on the

Alaskan waters. Prof. Elliott tells us that the fur-seals which repair to the islands of St. Paul and St. George, of the Pribylov group, are in numbers almost fabulous. They go to land to shed fur and hair and to breed. The seal life of that region is classified under the head of fur-seal, sea-lion, the hair-seal, and the walrus. Of the true fur-seal, the professor goes so far as to say that there is no other animal known to man superior to this from a purely physical point of view, and few creatures exhibit so high an order of instinct, approaching even to intelligence. A male is in his prime at six or seven years, measures 61 to 71 feet in length, and weighs at least 400 pounds, some reaching 600 pounds. The comparatively small head is almost all occupied by the brain, the large bluish hazel eyes alternately burn with revengeful, passionate light, then suddenly change to the tones of tenderness and good nature. When it seeks the land it is in its fattest condition. In from six weeks to three months the superfluous fat is consumed by self-absorption, and the bones show under the shrunken skin. It does not seek the place of its birth, but aims for land without regard to special location. The seal-weather is "the foggy, humid, oozy damp of summer," about the 1st of June the males select their positions, after the most extraordinary brutal contests which man can witness. The females arrive a few weeks later. The busy is covered with two coats, the short, crisp overhair concealing the soft, clastic fur. In contrast with that of the males the behavior of the females is described as of "exceeding peace and dove-like amiability." The females are four to four and a had feet long, and more shapely than the males. They do not have protracted fasts like the males. and have no great masses of blubber to sustain fasting. Soon after they give birth they leave their young on the ground and go to sea for food, returning perhaps next, or not for several days, in the meantime speeding to distant fishing-banks to satlate their hunger. The head and eye are exceedingly beautiful; the expression is really attractive, gentle, and intelligent. The large, lustrous, blue-black eyes are humid and soft with the tenderest expression, while the small, well-formed head is poised as gracefully on her neck as can well be imagined. She is the very picture of benignity and satisfaction when she is perched upon some convenient rock and has an opportunity to quietly fan herself, the eyes half-closed, and the head thrown back on Her gently-swelling shoulders. Prof. Eiliott declares that he never saw any driving of the young pups into the water by the old ones, in order to teach them to swim, as certain authors | have positively affirmed. The pups blunder into the water awkwardly, and become the most expert swimmers only after many discomfitures. - San

Francisco Bulletin. The part of Pompeli where the present exeavations are going on has revealed some most beautifully painted pictures and walls, some of which are very vivid in color; but almost every house in this quarter was visited by the owners themselves immediately after the eruption, and they, by mining through, took away almost every valuable thing, 1,800 years ago. The upper stories of the houses of Pompeii cropped out above the strata of pumice stone, ashes and mud deposited on that sad day in '79, A. D., and the inhabitants could very easily sink a shaft and run regularly through the walls, searching, though in the dark, after the treasure, which, generally speaking, would be found on the ground-floor, as all that was above would have been crushed by the superincumbent mass of pumice stone and

## Surprised at Connecticut.

"Yes, sah," said a North Carolinian at the New York hotel, yesterday, "I am very much puzzled by Connecticut. in a buggy. It's a pretty country. Than's lots of next-looking places, some tine buildings, plenty of nice can't understand how they live up | ford Conrunt. thar. The rocks are so big, sah, and thar's so many of them, that I can't see where they can raise anything to feed themselves with, for I give you my word on my honor as a gentleman, sah, that if I was put down thar, sah, though I am a farmer, I would starve ous effects. They say that in the Gerto death. And yet, sah, they tell me, sah, that the hav crop of that mass of stone carbuncles, sah, called New England, was one-third more in value than the whole of the cotton crop of the south. I tell you, sah, it s'prises me."-N. F. San.

### Effect of Lightning.

A neculiar case of "suspended anima-

tion" from fright occurred in Atlanta Saturday evening last. In the Fourth Ward a Mrs. Dall resides. She is a stout healthy, hearty woman and has stout healthy, hearty woman and has never known a day's illness. When NEW HOME she was a child of five years, a heavy thunder storm visited her home, and she was frightened nearly to death by vivid dashes of lightning and loud peals of thunder. The feelings which were hers at that time were peculiar and clung to her for several years, but finally as time went by she forgot the sensations, and for years she has been able to watch a thunder storm without feeling any fear whatever, and without recalling her terrible experience. Saturday evening when the thunder storm visited Atlanta it was particularly severe in the Fourth Ward. She sat by her window watching the lightning as it flew across the heavens and admired the beautiful electrical display. While her admiration was at its greatest extent a brilliant flash parted the clouds and at the same instant ran along the street car track in front of her residence. Instantly a loud peal of thunlife history of the seal and sea-lion of der came, but before it came she was seized with that old feeling of terror which so completely held her twenty years ago, and which she had not thought of for years. Quickly she sprang from her chair and fell across her bed, but as she did so, a tree near her home was shattered by the electrical fluid. This only augmented her fright and threw her into a comatose condition, which lasted several hours. The picture she presented while lying in her bed was a distressing one, and was exceedingly novel and interesting to those who were about her. She laid perfectly flat upon her back, her arms stretched beside her, perfectly powerless. Her mouth was so tightly closed that her lips were purple, while her eyes were wide open. The ball was like her body, motionless, and the pupil seemed to gaze upon a point on the ceiling, directly above her. Her friends called her by name, shook her with great force, threw water in her face, placed ammonia under her nose, but ail without an effect. She would not give any sign of life, except at intervals of four or five minutes, when a most pitiful groan would escape from her tightly scaled lips. She remained in this condition for 4 or 5 hours, when she suddenly opened her month, closed her eyes and arose to a sitting position, much to the joy of her friends. After recovering herself she told those with her all that transpired while she was helpless, and said that her leetings during the time were just the same she experienced when frightened twenty years ago. Yesterday she was up and well. -Atlanta Constitution.

## Appearances are Deceitful.

A very tall girl, wearing a Mother Hubbard, stepped on a platform scales at Coney Island, and informed the proprictor that she wished to be weighed. He placed a 200-pound weight on the book, and the suddenness with which it came down frightened him. Then he tried a 150-bound weight with the same

"Strange," he muttered, with a perplexed look at the girl, "something must be wrong with the scales."

Finally, after repeated attempts, he informed her in a dubious tone of voice, that she weighed just exactly eightynine pounds.

"Thank you," she said, handing him the nickel, "I seem to be gaining," and

she tripped away. Then the amazed scaleman looked after her and remarked:

"Some young fellow will get terribly fooled I. that Mother Hubbard dress. - N. w York Sun.

Pat Marloy, known to all the world from the song bearing his name, has died in Louisville. He was a railroad man, remarkable for his wit and genial disposition, and the song in his honor was written by Charile Ward.

## A Selfish Skye.

"Nell" is a funny little dog. Her intelligence is remarkable. A nod of the head indicates that she may go out, and her joy is beyond bounds. Standing up on her hind legs, then scampering across the room and into the hallway, she seems to be full of life. Her eyes fairly glisten with delight. But when the head is shaken at her, a sad look comes over poor Nell. She fairly droops, and goes to herself in meek humility. Nell is fond of boiled chicken; she will leave the tenderest cut of a porter-house steak for a chicken bone and over her dainty food she shows a selfishness almost human. Carrying her bit of chicken under the desk she will place it carefully out of ordinary reach, and watch it as a miser watches his gold. Twenty times in the afternoon she goes and smells in a dainty way her coveted morsel, but takes no ed success tally without an instance of bite at it. If a strange dog comes in outside of the desk, she watches him with pointed ears erect as she peers through the picket gate. But when a dog of any kind of size steps one foot inside the gate she flies to her hidden like yo' city very much; but, sah, I store and devours it instantly. Every act of this little Skye, every motion, I have been up that on business, and I and the eagerness she manifests to eat have ridden pretty much all over the up every scrap of the enicken in the state—a consid'ble po'tion of the way presence of the strange dog, tells of a in a buggy. It's a pretty country, deep-seated sellishness. She would not share one bit of that calcken with another dog if she knew he was starving. stock, and it's evident that thar's Yet Nell has man, good qualities, and a great deal of wealth; but, sah, I her intelligence is wonderful. -Hart-

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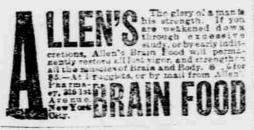
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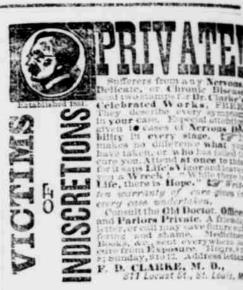
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